ERIC Document Resume	See Instruction Sheet	DATE OF RESUME 8/9/65	DATE RECEIVED

A. PUBLICATION DATA

ERIC ACCESSION NO.	2. ORIGINATOR CONTROL NO(S).	3. IDENTIFICATION NO.
ED000422	7174	N.A.

4. AUTHOR(S):
N.A.

5. TITLE OF DOCUMENT ABSTRACTED: Graduate Education: A Proposed Cooperative Program Between the State Colleges and the University of Wisconsin in the Field of Teacher Education of the Master's Degree Level.

6. PUBLICATION TITLE:
N.A.

7. EDITOR(S):
N.A.

8. PLACE OF ORIGIN
ORG.
ST. Univ. of Wisconsin Madison, Wisconsin
CITY, STATE

9. PUBLISHER OR SOURCE
University of Wisconsin

TELE. EXT.
INST/LOC CODE

10. VOL.	11. PAGES	12. MO./YR.	13. TOTAL PP.
N.A.	N.A.	59	4

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TYPE OF REPORT
PROPOSAL ☒
IN-PROGRESS ☐
FINAL ☐
FOLLOW-UP ☐

OTHER ERIC REFERENCES:

ERIC SATELLITE CODE

B. INDEXING DATA

14. SUBJECT AREA

15. TYPE OF ENDEAVOR
report

16. INDEXING TERMS (8-12)

interinstitutional cooperation		teacher education		
graduate education		elementary education		
programs		secondary education		
		faculty	teachers	

17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

Working papers describing the program of graduate studies at the master's degree level conducted cooperatively between the University of Wisconsin and the State colleges for *experienced* elementary and secondary classroom teachers. The program differs markedly from the usual master's degree program in education. Papers include recommendations of various interested committees.

ERIC No.

18. SOURCE OF ABSTRACT

C. FUNDING DATA

19. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION	20. DIVISION OR DEPT.	21. CONTRACT NO. / PROJECT NO.
	22. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	
	23. DURATION OR PROJECT	U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education

IC Form 1

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Office of Education

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IV-12

Working Paper # 6
October, 1959

GRADUATE EDUCATION

A Proposed Cooperative Program between the State Colleges and the University of Wisconsin in the Field of Teacher Education at the Master's Degree Level

By action of Coordinating Committee, April 11, 1958, and the two Boards of Regents, a Joint Staff Committee on Graduate Education has developed a cooperative program of graduate studies at the Master's degree level, between the University of Wisconsin and the State Colleges, for the classroom teacher of the elementary and secondary schools.

There is attached to this working paper of the Joint Staff, the report of the Joint Staff Committee on Graduate Education.

The report of the Joint Staff Committee on Graduate Education presents in detail, the proposed program and makes certain recommendations. The essential features of these recommendations are incorporated in this working paper of the Joint Staff.

Character of the Program

The essential characteristics are:

1. The program is designed to improve the effectiveness of the experienced classroom teacher and differs markedly from the usual Master's degree program in Education. Since the program strikes out boldly in new pathways, it must be considered experimental in character.

2. Each student will carry work in three broad areas -

Liberal Arts Foundations; 3-12 crs.

Area of Specialization; 9-15 crs.

Pedagogical Foundations; 3-9 crs.

3. Within the broad limits designated, the program for each student will be individually developed to suit the background and needs of the student.

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4. In each of the broad areas of work, several new courses especially designed for this program will be developed cooperatively by State Colleges and University staff members.

5. The minimum requirement for the Master's degree will be one year (four eight week summer sessions) full time graduate work beyond the Bachelor's degree.

6. Admission standards will be those of the University of Wisconsin Graduate School.

7. It is expected that each of the State Colleges and University of Wisconsin will participate in the program to some extent.

8. For the present, the degree will be granted by the University of Wisconsin or by one of the State Colleges, which now has a Master's degree program. Since the Master's degree program at La Crosse and Stout State Colleges are limited to highly specialized fields, only a limited portion of the new experimental program can be utilized by these institutions as a part of their present programs. The program at Superior State College is more general in character and a larger portion of the new program can be utilized for the degree at that institution.

9. At least one-half of the work must be taken at the institution granting the degree.

Need and Demand for the Program

The Joint Staff and the Joint Staff Committee on Graduate Education have made careful studies of both the need for and the demands for a program of this type. It has been found that:

1. The Colleges of Wisconsin grant an appreciably smaller proportion of their Master's degrees in the field of Education than do the colleges of the United States.

2. The proportion of the elementary and secondary teachers in Wisconsin holding Master's degrees is low when compared with the situation in our neighboring states or with the nation.

3. There is a growing realization that the welfare of our nation demands more effective teaching at all levels and that our teachers need better training.

4. Surveys by the State Colleges of possible enrollments indicate that there are enough teachers desirous of and qualified for such a program in the normal area of each State College to justify establishment of a minimum program at each State College not now offering a graduate program.

Recommendations

1. The Joint Staff recommends to the Coordinating Committee:

   a) That a cooperative program of graduate education for elementary and secondary classroom teachers at the Master's degree level be authorized between the several state colleges and the university and among the state colleges, in certain broad areas of subject matter to begin with the summer session of 1960.

   b) That the program be started on an experimental basis with courses especially designed to meet the needs of experienced elementary and secondary school classroom teachers at the Master's degree level.

   c) That the program be started on a limited basis with only carefully chosen courses, thought to be adequate in numbers and kinds to meet the needs of classroom teachers in the different parts of the state, with all the state colleges participating as they see fit according to their resources.

   d) That the two Boards of Regents be notified of the actions taken by the Coordinating Committee under a, b, and c above.

Additional Actions Needed by Other Bodies

If the above recommendations are approved, the Joint Staff Committee on Graduate Education will be requested by the Joint Staff to:

1. Take the necessary steps to see that the appropriate administrative officers and faculties of the several institutions consider the substantial merit of, and need for this experimental program.

2. Request the administrative officers of each State College to develop a specific proposal regarding the 1960 summer session for the Board of Regents of the State Colleges. It is expected that each proposal will detail the nature and extent of the courses to be offered, the staff and other facilities required, bedgetary estimates, and an analysis of the need for that program at that institution.

3. Proceed with the cooperative development of course outlines.

4. Further delineate the criteria to be used in the selection of staff for the courses.

5. Develop appropriate mechanisms for the administration of the Cooperative Programs.